

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

FOR MILWAUKEE COUNTY/WOW COUNTIES

JANUARY 2004



December Labor Force Figures are Mixed

The **Milwaukee County** unemployment rate decreased by three-tenths of a percentage point to 5.8 percent. The county shows the highest metro-area county unemployment rate, though it also showed the largest monthly decrease in the number of unemployed and unemployment rate. Annually, the unemployment rate is six-tenths of a percentage point lower than in December 2002.

Washington County's labor force figures show the largest unemployment rate increase at three-tenths of a point higher than in November, up to 4.3 percent. Washington shows the largest annual rate decrease down seven-tenths of a point since last December. This large decrease represents almost 800 more employed and 500 fewer unemployed.

Ozaukee County's unemployment rate was unchanged over the month and year at 3.7 percent. The number of employed increased by over 500 in Ozaukee despite no change in the unemployment rate.

Waukesha County's unemployment rate increased by one-tenth of a point to 3.8 percent. It is three-tenths lower than in December 2002 showing almost 2,400 more employed and approximately 600 fewer unemployed.

The **Milwaukee-Waukesha MSA** not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.1 percent in December 2003. This is a decrease, both monthly and annually, of one-tenth and five-tenths of a percentage point, respectively. The monthly change shows fewer employed and unemployed in the four-county metro area, which has been typical in December for the last three years. In past years, there has usually been an increase in the number of employed, complemented by a decrease in those who are unemployed. The considerable decrease in unemployment rate compared to last year is evidence that the metro area shows close to 9,000 more employed residents and 3,900 fewer unemployed, which is the best annual rate reduction that this area has shown in the month of December since 1999. This is the third month in a row that the metro area has shown an annual decrease in its

unemployment rate and the second straight month to display a yearly decrease in the number of unemployed.

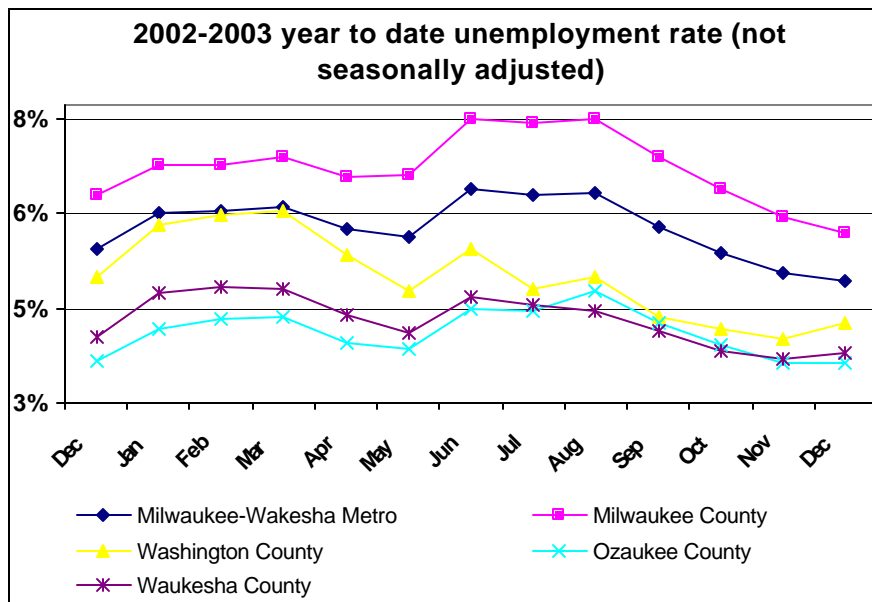
The **Milwaukee-Waukesha MSA** industry employment data from the nonfarm wage and salary estimates continue a trend in the last few years with a monthly decrease in the number of jobs in December. The metro total of 830,800 jobs is approximately 900 jobs less than the total in November.

Noteworthy is the fact that the MSA did not have much of a bounce in its estimated retail trade employment gaining a below average 500 jobs in December. Retail trade, of course,

expects a good employment increase due to the holiday season. The bulk of the seasonal hiring seemed to have happened a bit earlier than usual with the majority of it happening in October. Nonetheless, December's hiring was flat and the combined figures for October, November and December amounted to about 4,000 additional retail hires when the average has been about 6,000 over the

holiday period within the past decade. What will be interesting is to see January's monthly retail trade changes, which are usually downward and sharp, to see if employers are extending their holiday season as shoppers are becoming more and more likely to pursue post-new year discounts.

Annually, the MSA shows 10,900 fewer jobs than in December 2002. Manufacturing and retail trade show the largest annual deficits at 5,000 and 4,100 jobs, respectively. Government employment, specifically local government, and professional and business services also show reduced employment levels. Financial activities, educational and health services, and leisure and hospitality showed combined growth of 8,500 jobs over the year. Financial activities and educational and health services sector employment have shown annual growth in every month of 2003. Construction employment continued its annual deficit, which was bolstered by a larger than average monthly loss of employment in December of 3,100 jobs.



	Wisconsin	Milwaukee-Waukesha MSA	Milwaukee County/WDA	Washington County	Ozaukee County	Waukesha County	W-O-W WDA
December 2003							
Civilian Labor Force*	3,068,558	811,706	479,684	69,060	48,468	214,496	332,024
Persons Employed	2,922,590	770,706	451,674	66,072	46,691	206,270	319,033
Persons Unemployed	145,968	41,000	28,010	2,988	1,777	8,226	12,991
Unemployment Rate	4.8%	5.1%	5.8%	4.3%	3.7%	3.8%	3.9%
Total jobs of all non-farm industries** (Thousands)	2,785.8	830.8	529.4	47.0	37.3	217.0	301.3
Goods Producing Jobs	623.9	165.6	79.9	15.7	11.4	58.7	85.7
Service Producing Jobs	2,161.9	665.2	449.6	31.3	25.9	158.3	214.5
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	115.6	30.0	11.8	2.6	1.4	14.2	20.1
All Manufacturing	508.3	135.6	68.1	13.1	10.0	44.5	67.7
Total Trade	446.5	121.8	66.8	7.3	5.4	42.2	54.6
Wholesale Trade	118.9	40.7	20.5	2.1	1.4	16.7	20.0
Retail Trade	327.6	81.1	46.2	5.2	4.0	25.7	34.7
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	104.7	30.2	22.5	1.6	0.5	5.7	7.6
Financial Activities	159.2	60.4	41.8	2.0	2.1	14.5	18.5
Education and Health Services	371.5	134.0	98.4	5.5	4.6	25.4	35.6
Leisure & Hospitality	232.2	63.5	40.7	4.4	3.2	15.2	22.3
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	430.0	160.9	112.0	5.3	5.9	37.6	49.1
Information	50.8	19.8	13.6	0.5	0.3	5.4	6.1
Professional and Business Services	240.9	99.4	71.7	2.2	3.7	21.8	28.0
Other Services	138.3	41.7	26.7	2.6	1.9	10.4	15.0
All Government	417.8	94.4	67.3	5.1	4.3	17.7	26.8
Change from November 2003							
Civilian Labor Force*	-4,120	-1,440	-1,670	150	-30	110	230
Persons Employed	-12,780	-390	-230	-30	-20	-100	-160
Persons Unemployed	8,660	-1,050	-1,440	190	-10	220	390
Unemployment Rate	0.3%	-0.1%	-0.3%	0.3%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
Total jobs of all non-farm industries** (Thousands)	-9.8	-0.9	0.2	-0.1	-0.1	-0.9	-1.1
Goods Producing Jobs	-9.0	-3.6	-1.5	-0.3	-0.2	-1.6	-2.1
Service Producing Jobs	-0.8	2.7	1.7	0.2	0.1	0.7	1.0
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	-8.5	-3.1	-1.2	-0.3	-0.1	-1.5	-1.9
All Manufacturing	-0.5	-0.5	-0.3	0.0	0.0	-0.2	-0.2
Total Trade	3.0	0.8	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.4
Wholesale Trade	0.9	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Retail Trade	2.1	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	-0.5	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Financial Activities	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Education and Health Services	-0.7	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	-0.3	1.5	1.0	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.5
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	-1.6	-1.0	-0.7	0.0	0.0	-0.2	-0.3
Information	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Professional and Business Services	-3.9	-1.1	-0.8	0.0	0.0	-0.2	-0.3
Other Services	2.1	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
All Government	-1.0	0.9	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.3
Change from December 2002							
Civilian Labor Force*	63,830	4,980	2,380	270	550	1,780	2,610
Persons Employed	76,700	8,890	5,210	760	540	2,380	3,680
Persons Unemployed	-12,870	-3,900	-2,830	-490	10	-590	-1,070
Unemployment Rate	-0.5%	-0.5%	-0.6%	-0.7%	0.0%	-0.3%	-0.4%
Total jobs of all non-farm industries** (Thousands)	-0.9	-10.9	-5.0	-0.9	-0.7	-4.3	-5.9
Goods Producing Jobs	-20.0	-8.5	-3.9	-0.8	-0.5	-3.3	-4.6
Service Producing Jobs	19.0	-2.4	-1.1	-0.2	-0.2	-1.0	-1.3
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	-6.4	-3.5	-1.4	-0.3	-0.2	-1.7	-2.1
All Manufacturing	-13.6	-5.0	-2.5	-0.5	-0.4	-1.6	-2.5
Total Trade	8.2	-4.1	-2.3	-0.2	-0.2	-1.4	-1.8
Wholesale Trade	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	4.2	-4.1	-2.3	-0.3	-0.2	-1.3	-1.8
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	-1.1	-0.2	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	5.8	1.4	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.4
Education and Health Services	10.6	5.5	4.0	0.2	0.2	1.0	1.4
Leisure & Hospitality	0.8	1.6	1.0	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.6
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	2.7	-2.8	-2.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.6	-0.8
Information	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Professional and Business Services	0.3	-2.7	-1.9	-0.1	-0.1	-0.6	-0.7
Other Services	2.2	-0.5	-0.3	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.2
All Government	-7.9	-3.8	-2.7	-0.2	-0.2	-0.7	-1.1

* Labor force figures are not seasonally adjusted and are commonly revised. Figures from "place of residence" survey from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Local Area Unemployment Statistics program. **Figures based upon "place of employment" survey from the BLS, Non-Farm Wage and Salary estimates.

Month and year ago change figures are rounded and may not sum to total

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